



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

March 1, 2006

The Honorable Judy Biggert
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6301

Dear Chairman Biggert:

Thank you for your letter regarding the draft strategic plan of the United States Climate Change Technology Program (CCTP). We appreciate your continuing interest in CCTP.

I understand that Mr. David Conover, CCTP Director, briefed several members of your Committee staff about CCTP on January 23, 2006. We plan to continue to communicate with you and your staff on a regular basis.

We believe that the CCTP draft strategic plan for the first time addresses long-term climate change technology challenges broadly and substantively. It is inspired by the President's vision that it is possible to engage America's strengths in innovation and technology to transform energy production and use, and other activities that emit greenhouse gases (GHGs). Over the long-term, such a transformation will enable the United States to achieve major reductions of GHG emissions. If the technologies outlined in this plan emerge successfully from their research and development (R&D) stages, they could enable and greatly facilitate reductions of GHG emissions to the very low levels needed to achieve stabilization of concentrations in the earth's atmosphere.

The plan is unprecedented in its scope and scale. It breaks new ground with its 100-year planning horizon, global perspective, multi-lateral research collaborations, public-private partnerships, and long-term visioning of the roles for new and advanced technology. These are precisely the elements of strategy that are needed to guide and, indeed, embolden Federal R&D activities across all agencies, lead the way for others, and chart meaningful progress toward the President's climate change goals.

The strategic plan is intended to provide long-term strategic direction to the agencies and help guide the formulation of a balanced and diversified portfolio of climate change technology R&D. It identifies high-priority R&D activities,



goal-by-goal, technology-by-technology, that respond to the plan's strategies for technology development. The planning process is dynamic and continues to be informed by studies, public comments, technical workshops, assessments of technology potentials, and analyses regarding long-term energy and emissions outlooks and modeling of a range of long-term technology scenarios.

The results of this process are clearly stated in the plan in the context of each strategic goal and at higher levels of aggregation, which are summarized in Chapter 10 and highlighted separately in the *Vision and Framework* (pp. 30-31) as key initiatives and significant elements of the core portfolio. Copies of the *Vision and Framework* were forwarded to you and the Congress with my letter of October 25, 2005.

Regarding your concerns about delays and your comparisons of progress to our sister program, the United States Climate Change Science Program (CCSP), I respectfully refer you to our letter of January 19, 2005. In that letter, we point out differences between these two activities. As you know, the predecessor to CCSP, the United States Global Change Research Program, was authorized by Congress in 1990, now more than 15 years ago. It has since marshaled sufficient resources to maintain a full-time staff that is augmented by contracted technical support. CCTP, by contrast, received a congressional appropriation for the first time in fiscal year 2005 and was just recently authorized by the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

The availability of resources determines CCTP's ability to make progress. When resources became available in the third quarter of fiscal year 2005, CCTP was able to activate staff and technical support. The result was accelerated progress, which was evidenced in part by the publication of the *Vision and Framework* and the public release of the draft strategic plan in September 2005.

Regrettably, in the FY 2006 Energy and the Water Development Appropriation, Congress took action -- we believe without fully appreciating its consequences -- that adversely affected the DOE account intended to support CCTP. This action effectively zeroed-out the President's request for \$1 million for CCTP. The loss of funds in FY 2006 will slow CCTP's progress. It also clouds the future for CCTP and affects staff retention. The Department is pursuing other means to find support for CCTP, including possible reprogramming action, but such efforts require time to resolve satisfactorily.

Regarding your concerns about openness of the plan development process, the draft plan has benefited from many external inputs and a formal public comment period, which opened on September 22, 2005. Regarding your comments about the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), we would be delighted to have NAS

review the draft strategic plan and provide us the benefit of its findings and recommendations. The CCTP does not currently have the resources, however, to fund a NAS review, which is estimated to cost up to \$1 million or more. Seeking external input at lower costs, CCTP recently completed six workshops involving more than 50 non-Federal technical experts. These workshops focused on each of the plan's six strategic goals.

Finally, with regard to the plan's lack of policies necessary to promote technology deployment, you are correct. The CCTP strategic plan primarily addresses R&D matters. It does not articulate policies to aid deployment. However, it does acknowledge their importance and commits the CCTP to explore a range of options.

In closing, the President has articulated a bold vision for the role of innovation and technology in addressing the issue of climate change. The CCTP strategic plan lends substance to this vision and provides a means by which the United States can increase the participation by others, domestically and internationally. With your support, the United States will continue to lead on these fronts and help move the world forward toward the eventual achievement of the President's vision.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Ms. Jill L. Sigal, Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-5450.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Samuel W. Bodman

cc: The Honorable Bart Gordon, Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Science

The Honorable Michael Honda, Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Energy

The Honorable Vernon Ehlers, Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment, Technology and Standards

The Honorable David Wu, Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Energy, Technology and Standards